

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 /070 W

-----119329 140829Z /15

R 121828Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7928

INFO PANCANAL

USSOUTHCOM

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN

SUBJECT: GOP FORMS "PARTY OF REVOLUTION"

REF: PANAMA 4897

1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED "CRITICA" OF JULY 8

REPORTED THAT GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAD MET AND FORMED
A COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A "PARTY OF THE REVOLUTION"
TO SUPPORT THE "CURRENT REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS." THIS
WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY GENERAL TORRIJOS. THE COMMISSION,
COMPOSED OF RODRIGO GONZALEZ (ADVISER TO THE CHIEF
OF STATE), EDUCATION MINISTER ARISTIDES ROYO, FORMER
AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO, LABOR
MINISTER ADOLFO AHUMADA, NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE
COMMISSION MEMBERS RICARDO RODRIGUEZ AND
ERNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES, AND A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL
GUARD GENERAL STAFF (UNSPECIFIED BUT POSSIBLY LT.
COL. MANUEL ANTONIO NORIEGA, OF THE GUARD'S G-2),
WILL WORK WITH VICE PRESIDENT GERARDO GONZALEZ IN
ORGANIZING THE PARTY.

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2. THIS KIND OF A GOVERNMENT ANSWER TO OLD-LINE
POLITICAL PARTIES HAS BEEN BRUITED ABOUT FOR SEVERAL
YEARS. IN TORRIJOS' RECENT PLEDGES OF POLITICAL REFORM
AND LEGALIZATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES, THE GOVERNMENT
LEADERSHIP EVIDENTLY FOUND THE INCENTIVE NECESSARY
TO TAKE A FIRST STEP IN CREATING A POLITICAL PARTY

TO REPRESENT THEIR "REVOLUTION." REPORTEDLY, THE PARTY WILL BE ACTIVATED IMMEDIATELY, BUT ITS PLANS WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED UNTIL AFTER OCTOBER 11 WHEN A NEW NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IS INSTALLED AND A NEW PRESIDENT CHOSEN BY THE ASSEMBLY.

3. ALTHOUGH TERMED A "PARTY OF THE REVOLUTION," THIS PARTY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE MORE OF A PERSONALIZED, TORRIJISTA PARTY THAN ANYTHING ELSE. IT CAN BE EXPECTED THAT GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WILL BE CALLED UPON TO FILL ITS RANKS, AND THAT IT WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES IN CARRYING OUT ITS ACTIVITIES.
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Message Attributes

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